

TIMK 8497U1

Amendment Dated July 27, 2005

Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2005

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 8, and 10 are rejected. Claims 3-7 and 9 are objected to. Claims 1, 6, and 8-10 are amended. Claim 7 is cancelled. New claims 11-19 are added.

**Summary of Interview**

Applicant and his attorney thank the Examiner for the telephone interview on June 21, 2005. During the interview, applicant proposed amendments to claims 1 and 8, and 10. However, no agreement with respect to the claims was reached. The prior art was discussed, specifically, U.S. Pat. 5,688,201 issued to *Zhou* and U.S. Pat. 3,945,270 issued to *Nelson*.

**Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8, and 10 Under 35 U.S.C. §102.**

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,688,201 issued to *Zhou* (hereafter referred to as "*Zhou*") and by U.S. Pat. No. 3,945,270 issued to *Nelson* (hereafter referred to as "*Nelson*"). Applicant traverses the rejections.

As suggested by Examiner, Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claim 7. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Therefore, Applicant believes that the prior art references no longer contain all the claim

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limitations of claim 1, as required by the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure

("MPEP"). The MPEP states,

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

MPEP § 2131.

Claims 2-6 depend from base claim 1, and therefore, incorporate all of the subject matter of claim 1. Because a dependant claim cannot be anticipated if the independent claim from which it depends is not anticipated, dependant claims 2-6 of the present application must also be found unanticipated. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1-2, and the objection to claims 3-6 be withdrawn.

Claim 8 has been amended to includes a means for flexible mounting that "biases a center of the planetary roller towards a center of the support shaft, thereby pushing and pulling the planetary roller into and out of a convergent wedge so that the wedge loading mechanism can be operated under any small wedge angle  $\delta$  while the traction drive operates at or close to the maximum available friction coefficient  $\mu$ ."

*Zhou* and *Nelson* fail to describe such a means for flexible mounting. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is not anticipated by either *Zhou* or *Nelson*.

Claim 9 depends from base claim 8, and therefore, incorporates all of the subject matter of claim 8. Because a dependant claim cannot be anticipated if the independent claim from which it depends is not anticipated, dependant claim 9 of the present

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application must also be found unanticipated. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 8 and the objection to claim 9 be withdrawn.

Claim 10 has been amended to includes the step of "providing a flexibly mounted wedge loading mechanism having a predetermined stiffness ratio  $K_S/K_R$  that is a function of a wedge angle  $\delta$  for different operating friction coefficients  $\mu_0$ ,

characterized by  $\frac{K_S}{K_R} = 2 \left( \mu_0 \cos \frac{\delta}{2} - \sin \frac{\delta}{2} \right) \sin \frac{\delta^*}{2} \leq \mu \sin \delta - 2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{\delta}{2} \right) \dots$ " *Zhou* and

*Nelson* fail to describe such a flexibly mounted wedge loading mechanism. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is not anticipated by either *Zhou* or *Nelson*.

#### **New Claims 11-19.**

Claims 11-19 have been added. None of the references of record, either independently or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed subject matter of Claims 36 and 37. Therefore, applicant submits that Claims 36 and 37 constitute allowable subject matter and should be favorably considered by the Examiner, and applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for those Claims.

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**Conclusion.**

Applicant believes the above analysis and the amendments made herein overcome all of the Examiner's objections and all of the Examiner's rejections of and that claims 1-6, 8-19 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicant submits that claims 1-6, 8-19 constitute allowable subject matter and should be favorably considered by the Examiner, and issue a timely Notice of Allowance for those claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit overpayment under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, which may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 162201.

Respectfully submitted,

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